



LEO A. SACCO, Jr.
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March 8, 2004

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madam Secretary,

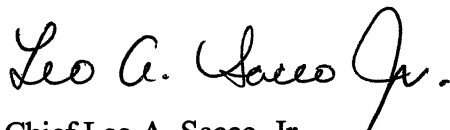
Public safety radio interference has been affecting public safety departments for more than five years and continues to spread to new municipalities every day. As the Chief of the Medford Police Department and the Chairman of the Greater Boston Police Council, I find it alarming that first responders in Massachusetts and across America have been fighting to communicate because of interference, when they should be focusing on protecting communities and saving lives.

Interference affects hundreds of public safety departments throughout the United States, and continues to impact Massachusetts as well. Interference has affected almost every district in our state and every time this problem occurs, first responders' lives are in jeopardy.

As a Police Chief and the Chairman of the Greater Boston Police Council, I support the Consensus Plan as the only true solution for 800 MHz interference. The Consensus Plan will eliminate interference by realigning the spectrum, while providing the necessary funding so as to not strain federal, state or local budgets. This is an urgent matter, not only for first responders struggling to communicate, but also for the communities that they protect – and the Consensus Plan is what we need. Interference is a pervasive problem that can potentially affect all aspects of emergency response and public safety. We cannot continue to delay on implementing a solution when lives are in danger.

More than 850 public safety organizations support the Consensus Plan, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Greater Boston Police Council, and the Medford Fire Department. The Medford Police Department joins our public safety colleagues in support of this immediate and comprehensive solution to interference. First responders need your support as they protect America's communities and risk their lives for the public's safety. Please support first responders' communication needs by supporting the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo A. Sacco Jr.".

Chief Leo A. Sacco, Jr.
Medford Police Department

CC: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman Edward Markey